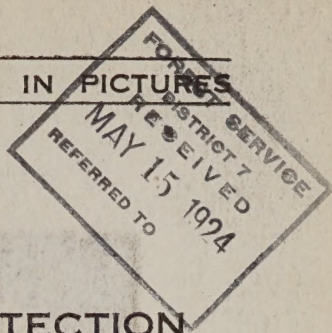


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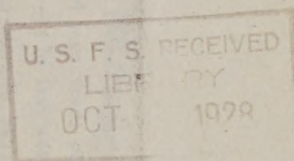
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FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN PICTURES



NO. 32

STEPS REQUIRE PROTECTION FROM DECAY



FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

A part of the 4 billion cubic feet of timber used to replace wood destroyed by decay in service last year went into these new front steps.

The old steps, uniform with the rest of the porch construction have rotted away too soon as a result of being placed directly on the ground where they could take fungous infection from the soil and grass.

The new steps, none too well painted and subject to the same conditions, hold out no promise of giving longer service than the old.

The man who wishes to avoid frequent and expensive repairs to steps and porches should eliminate decay favoring conditions. Decay may be combated by such practices as the use of heartwood of highly durable species, elimination of weeds and debris, avoidance of moisture-holding forms of construction, liberal ventilation and drainage, and the use of preservatives wherever practicable.

(Photograph by Forest Products Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service)



